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(*b*) whether any steps have been taken to fill up the said vacancy and if so, what those steps are;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to modify the existing rule in the Madras Educational Rules in respect of the said appointment and if so, what the objects and reasons are for the proposed modifications; and what is the nature of the modification proposed;

(*d*) whether the Government or the Director of Public Instruction or the Principal of the Government Muhammadan College, Madras, has received any applications from candidates for the post and if so, who the applicants are and what their respective qualifications are;

(*e*) whether the said appointment is to be made by the Government in consultation with the Public Services Commission or independently of them; and

(*f*) whether the Public Services Commission has been consulted by the Government as regards the proposed modifications of the rules and if so, what the opinion given by them is and if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Notification No. 699, dated the 29th August 1935, published at page 1221 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 10th September 1935.

(*b*), (*d*) & (*e*) The appointment has to be made by the Director of Public Instruction in consultation with the Madras Services Commission who have been addressed by the Director.

(*f*) Yes; but the Government consider it undesirable to publish the views of the Madras Services Commission in regard to individual amendments to rules.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know why this modification was made in the rules? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" On the recommendation of the Head of the Department."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Was the Board of visitors consulted in this matter? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I cannot say."

Memorandum presented to the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise by the District Educational Council, Salem, on the 19th February 1935.

* 421 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a deputation on behalf of the Salem District Educational Council met the Hon. Minister on the 19th February 1935 and presented a memorandum praying for adequate grants;

(*b*) what action was taken on the representations made by the deputationists and what orders have been passed in the matter; and

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(c) whether special preference is proposed to be given in the matter of allowing grants to districts which are really more backward in education than many other districts?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Owing to lack of funds it was not found possible to make any increase in the grant originally allotted to Salem district.

(c) It is not proposed to give any district preference over another in the matter of grants on the ground of one district being more backward than another.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder :—" If the Government are not giving encouragement to backward districts in due consideration of their backwardness in education, may I ask, Sir, in what way they are going to encourage such districts in regard to the promotion of education, and get them in line with the other districts? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" We have no such ideas at present in contemplation."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder :—" Will they at least consider that aspect of the question for future years? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" For future years, I cannot give any undertaking."

Protests against the Government Order forbidding the frequent change of text books in schools.

* 422 Q.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether orders have been passed by the Government directing that schools should change their text books only once in five years;

(b) if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(c) whether any representations have been received from educationists and teachers' associations protesting against this Government Order, and if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Publishers and Booksellers' Association of South India offered to wait on him in deputation to explain their position with reference to this order; and

(e) if so, whether the offer was refused and what the reasons therefor are?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government Order was placed at the disposal of the Press.

(c) Yes. No action was taken as none was considered necessary.

(d) Yes.

(e) It was thought that no useful purpose would be served by receiving the deputation.